

shall be in peril of death, if he gives a fraudulent decision he shall lose all his property, if he errs ignorantly and in good faith he shall be at the mercy of the King,

It was at Ariano that Roger promulgated the body of his laws, The Assiscs speak as if previous laws had already been issued,¹ and we know of decrees, pronounced at Melfi in 1120., and at various other periods of the reign* A *Ntivedla* or royal decree, issued in the valley of the Crati in 1150, applying only to Calabria, may imply the promulgation of other decrees of this sort; the Constitutions of Frederick II, may contain more enactments of Roger than we can disentangle from them. Here we have then all the actual legislation which we can attribute to the first King of Sicily,

Meanwhile strong hands and subtle minds were building in silence a great and majestic fabric of government, Roger himself was greatest among those who thus moulded a kingdom, but he saw from the moment that he ascended the throne the necessity of casting his net wide among men of all nations and creeds in order to surround the throne with indestructible institutions, Palcandus says of him that he inquired diligently into the customs

of other kings and nations to see what
was worth
imitation in them; whatever men he
hoard of *m*
famous in council or battle he nptired
no rewards

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fidellter reeipktis/¹ BriintJilwne, *ap, eiL_t* p, 95,